

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 7806

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, AU
SUBJECT: KREISKY COMMENT ON FOREIGN MINISTER-DESIGNATE PAHR

REFS: A) VIENNA 6154, B) VIENNA 6810

1. CHANCELLOR KREISKY VOLUNTEERED TO ME ON CONFIDENTIAL BASIS WHAT HE TERMED HIS BASIC REASON FOR CHOOSING WILLIBALD PAHR AS NEXT AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER. HE SAID HE HAD LOOKED LONG AND HARD FOR SOMEONE OUTSIDE AUSTRIAN SENIOR DIPLOMATIC SERVICE WHO COULD TALK TO MAJOR POWERS UNENCUMBERED BY TRADITIONAL AUSTRIAN BUREAUCRATIC PRACTICES OR IMAGE PROBLEM AND HE FELT HE HAD FOUND PAHR TO BE SUCH PERSON. KREISKY WENT ON TO NOTE THAT AUSTRIAN UN PERMREP AMBASSADOR JANKOWITSCH HAD IMAGE AS FRIEND OF THIRD WORLD, AND SUCH IMAGE WOULD NOT BE DESIRABLE ON VIENNA SCENE. HE WAS QUICK TO ADD, HOWEVER, THAT JANKOWITSCH WAS DOING AN EXCELLENT JOB AT UN, AND THAT JANKOWITSCH'S CULTIVATION OF THIRD WORLD WAS AT CHANCELLOR'S OWN INSTRUCTION IN SPITE OF WHAT KREISKY DISMISSED LIGHTLY AS SOME OPPOSITION IN AUSTRIAN UN MISSION TO THIS POLICY.

2. CHANCELLOR NOTED FURTHER THAT POST OF AUSTRIAN AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON WILL BECOME VACANT AT END OF YEAR (AMBASSADOR HALUSA IS SCHEDULED TO RETIRE) ALONG WITH NUMBER OF OTHER AMBASSADORIAL POSTS, AND THAT REASSIGNMENT PROCESS COULD CONCEIVABLY ALSO INVOLVE
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MOVING AUSTRIAN UN PERMREP. KREISKY ADDED THAT HE WAS

REVIEWING QUESTION BUT DID NOT EXPECT ANY DECISION
UNTIL LATE IN FALL.

3. COMMENT: CHANCELLOR'S COMMENTS ABOUT JANKOWITSCH'S
THIRD WORLD IMAGE VERSUS PAHR'S UNENCUMBERED PROFESSIONAL
PAST REPRESENTS SOMEWHAT DISINGENUOUS RATIONALIZATION -
PROBABLY FOR BENEFIT OF SENIOR SOCIALIST PARTY CIRCLES
AND DIPLOMATIC CORPS IN VIENNA - OF HIS APPOINTMENT OF PAHR
AS FOREIGN MINISTER. REAL REASON, AS NOTED REFTEL A,
REMAINS THAT PAHR APPOINTMENT FITS WITH (1) KREISKY'S
NEED FOR DOMESTIC POLITICAL PURPOSES TO HAVE A FEW
INDIVIDUALS IN CABINET WITH OSTENSIBLY NON-
SOCIALIST, LIBERAL CREDENTIALS, AND (2) HIS DESIRE TO
CONTINUE TO FUNCTION AS HIS OWN FOREIGN MINISTER.
APPOINTMENT OF JANKOWITSCH AS FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD
NOT HAVE SERVED KREISKY'S DOMESTIC POLITICAL
CONSIDERATIONS AND WOULD HAVE PLACED YOUNG, COMPETENT
AND AMBITIOUS SOCIALIST, WITH CONSIDERABLE CONSTITUENCY
OF HIS OWN, IN POSITION TO CHALLENGE CHANCELLOR'S
NEAR COMPLETE CONTROL OVER FOREIGN POLICY FORMULATION
AND IMPLEMENTATION. BUCHANAN

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